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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO

THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR

THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1953.



OF WHICH THE REPORTS & DOCUMENTS TO 1868 ARE INDEXED.

BY JAMES GALT, M.A., F.R.S., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

LONDON: SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., 1869.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO  
THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st. 1953

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To:-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have very much pleasure in submitting my Report for 1953.

During the year I have paid One hundred and seventy-six (176) visits to vessels of various nationalities, mainly for the treatment and landing of sick or injured officers and members of crews.

There has been only one case of notifiable disease, this in the last week of the year. This case was that of a seaman suffering from a mild form of poliomyelitis. He was admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Truro.

The general standard of health on board all types of vessels has improved considerably and the standard of accommodation has also risen remarkably. Cases of Venereal Disease are noticeably low.

The number of deratting certificates and exemptions issued totalled one hundred (100): two more than last year.

There has been an increase in serious injury due to the rough weather last winter. During six weeks in January and February alone 14 serious cases of illness or injury were brought ashore, all at night or during the early hours. These were distributed between the Falmouth and District Hospital and the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro. It is with many thanks to these Hospitals that these emergencies are so readily admitted and treated in spite of a shortage of accommodation.

OF THE TO RECORD MEDICAL SET TO WHICH CAUSES  
UNKNOWN WITH PORT ORIGIN AND UNKNOWN AND  
FOR WHICH THERE IS NO DISEASE NAME BUT NOT

-107-

SET TO RECORD THE UNKNOWN DISEASE  
UNKNOWN UNKNOWN PORT ORIGIN AND UNKNOWN

RECORDED IN THE FORM OF A MEDICAL RECORD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE PORT OF LIVERPOOL

-108-

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was to

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to add the board no related to business interest of  
abundance to business and the disabilities beyond and where  
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and when this is to record the medical officer and  
possible witness or his own case does not English a set of

not stock and add to office of port of Liverpool has



There were two cases of death by falling into holds and two of death from natural causes.

Your Sanitary Inspector has been very busy this year and has carried out his duties with his usual thoroughness.

H.M. Customs Officers, the Harbour Master, the Dock Master and all Shipping Agents have again co-operated in a very cheerful and helpful manner making the various duties of a busy repair port a pleasure rather than occasionally an arduous task.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A.CECIL DICK

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2011 OCT 1



I. STAFF

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D.HALL	Clerk	21 February, 1952	-	-
J.W.MORTON	Treasurer	28 December, 1951	-	Manager, Lloyds Bank, Falmouth.
A.C.DICK	Port Medical Officer of Health	2 February, 1945	M.R.C.S.Eng. L.R.C.P.Lond.	-
G.E.WRIGHT	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1 January, 1951	M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.	-
F.JACKETT	Port Sanitary Inspector	1 October, 1940	Cert.R.San.I.	-

Address and telephone number of)  
the Medical Officer of Health )

"Lerryn", Emslie Road, Falmouth.  
Tel. Falmouth 226.



II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	409	858,501	173	389	1
Coastwise	793	1,425,223	3	405	-
TOTAL	1,202	2,283,724	176	794	2



III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE  
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic ...	( Number of passengers INWARDS	Nil
	( Number of passengers OUTWARDS	Nil
Cargo Traffic ...	(Principal IMPORTS	General Cargo, including food produce, coal, cement, timber, oil and petroleum spirit.
	(Principal EXPORTS	None.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive

Amsterdam, Antwerp, Aruba, Alexandria, Archangel, Bona, Bremen, Bordeaux, Bayonne, Bombay, Boston, Benasif, Boulogne, Brest, Bone, Caen, Casablanca, Cairns, Copenhagen, Cuba, Cyprus, Cherbourg, Calais, Curacao, Dunkirk, Dungarvon, Dieppe, Demsjoe, Dorfrecht, Emden, Fecamp, Funchal, Freeport, Frederikersund, Foynes, Freemantle, Fagerstrand, Gothenburg, Genoa, Gotenburg, Gibraltar, Ghent, Hamburg, Halifax, Huelva, Hearnosand, Houston, Harburg, Holtman, Istanbul, Kalmar, Kotko, Kalstad, Lisbon, Le Havre, Linham, Lagos, Lake Charles, Lysune, Las Palmas, Malta, Morlaix, Madeira, Mena-al-Ahmadi, Montreal, Newport News, Norfolk, New York, New Orleans, Newfoundland, Oran, Odense, Oslo, Port Everlades, Palermo, Philadelphia, Port Said, Port Brier, Rotterdam, Rouen, Rouge, Susa, St.Malo, Sfax, Selubal, Soderhomm, Stugsund, Sorel, Skien, St.Helier, St.Servan, Singapore, Stavanger, Sydney, Tampico, Three Rivers, Treport, Tripoli, Texas, Trinidad, Valmira, Walkton, Ymuiden, Wormer.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no Barge traffic in the Port.



V. WATER SUPPLY

No Change

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

No Change

VII. SMALLPOX

All cases or suspected cases of small pox may be sent to Lee Mill Hospital, Near Ivybridge, Devon.

Ambulances for the transport of such cases would be supplied by the Cornwall County Council who are also responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crew.

The smallpox consultants available are -

Dr. D.F. Johnstone,  
The Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.  
(Tel. Plymouth 4311 and 61437).

Dr. W.A. Lister,  
7, The Crescent, Plymouth.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis would be sent to The Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. (Tel. Colindale 7041).

VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

No Change.



IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Mild Polio-myelitis	-	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No case of Malaria has been observed during the past year.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague have arrived during the past year.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Procedure for inspection of ships for rats

All ships arriving from foreign ports are inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector and a thorough search is made for indications of rodent infestation. Where



indications of rodent infestation are found traps are set and in cases where the deratting certificate has expired and indications of rodent infestation are found, the vessel is ordered to be fumigated.

Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rodents

Arrangements have been made for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents at the Royal Infirmary, Pathological Department, Truro.

No rodents have been sent for examination during the year.

Arrangements for deratting ships and methods used

Deratting of ships is carried out entirely by fumigation by hydrogen cyanide. The work is carried out by a commercial contractor, Fumigation Services Ltd. of London.

Progress in the rat proofing of ships

Ship builders are now giving a good deal of attention to rat proofing and most new vessels are found to be largely rat proof. Advice is given from time to time when rat proofing is not satisfactory. Additional rat proofing was provided on two vessels at the request of the Port Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category	Number
Black rats	-
Brown rats	489
Sent for examination	-
Infected with plague	-



Attention is drawn to the increase in the number of rats destroyed in ships. This is accounted for by the fact that no fewer than 383 rats were caught by trapping on one vessel which arrived for laying-up in the Truro River. This vessel was a Greek and arrived after discharging a cargo of wheat at another British port.

Very little rat infestation is normally found in ships arriving at the Port. This is due to the fact that a very large majority of ships which arrive are oil tankers. Experience has shown that rats will not live with oil, with the result that oil tankers are rarely infested.

It is worth recording that the docks and wharves are remarkably free from rat infestation due to the vigilance of the Falmouth Docks and Engineering Co.Ltd. who employ a rodent operator at regular intervals.



TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED  
DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued			Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued			Total Certificates issued
HCN	After fumigation with Other fumigant (State method)	After trapping	After poisoning	Total	Certificates Issued	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	
6	-	1	-	7	93	100



XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of inspections	Notices Served		Result of serving notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Inspections	794	Nil	Nil
Re-Visits	231	Nil	Nil
Total	1,025	Nil	Nil

Nuisances or sanitary defects were found on 18 vessels.

These again indicate lack of care and sanitary supervision of the living quarters. Types of nuisances found included dirty and verminous crews' quarters, berths, washplaces and messrooms and defective and foul water closets and defective and dirty food lockers. Lack of attention to minor structural defects accounted for such items as defective side ports, heating stoves, bunks and showers.

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH)  
REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

No Change

XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

No Change

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

No Change

